



THERMÆ ROMÆ

by Mari Yamazaki

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Chapter 4



UP THE
STAIRS BY SOME, TODAY"
EMPEROR HADRIAN'S VILLA

THE MODERN DAYTOWN

STYL. DRAWING



SHOUTING
LUCIAN!

I'M REALLY
SORRY FOR THE
LONG WAIT!



SHOUTING
LUCIAN!





THE THING IS, NOT EVERYONE LIVES HERE! BOTH COMPLEXES.



IT LOOKS AND
TURNS WOULD
BE A REALLY
EXPENSIVE
TEMPLE IN
THIS PLACE!

I HEARD
THAT EMPEROR
HADRIAN
DESIGNED
EVERYTHING BY
HIMSELF...

WHAT'S THAT?
THIS LOOKS
MORE LIKE A
CITY THAN A
VILLA!



I'M JUST A POOR
ENGINEER. SO WHY
DID A PERSON LIKE
ME GET AS TO
COME HERE?

BUSINESS
LUCK! PLEASE
SILENCE UP
AND
FOLLOW ME!

THE EMPEROR
ACTUALLY
WORKED ON SUCH
A LARGE-SCALE
CONSTRUCTION
BY HIMSELF.

OK... I'M
HAVING A
STOMACH-
ACHE AGAIN







YOU LOOK
AS IF YOU'VE
JUST SEEN
SOMETHING
STRANGE...



IT HAS
A SHAPE
THAT IS
UNPRECEDENTED
IN ANY
ARCHITECTURAL
CONCEPTS...

THAT'S A
UNUSUAL TABLE



A CIRCULAR
LIVING SPACE
SURROUNDED
BY A MOAT...?





EH?!

NORMALLY
EVERYONE
OTHER THAN
ME WOULD BE
SEVERELY
PUNISHED FOR
CROSSING THE
BRIDGE

ON THE
OTHER SIDE
OF THE
BRIDGE IS
MY OWN
ISLAND



Y...
YES

BUDDY
UP AND
GET OVER
HERE!



WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING...?



WELL, I'VE
FORGOTTEN IF
I CROSS THE
BRIDGE... IT

HOWEVER, YOU'RE
AN EXCEPTION...
THERE'S SOME-
THING I WANT TO
SHOW YOU



BUT I HEARD
THAT THE BATHS
YOU DESIGNED
ARE USUALLY
STRANGE AS
WELL

MARY WAVE
SAID THAT THE
BUILDINGS
I DESIGNED
LOOK RATHER
ECENTRIC...

YES...



SOMETHING
I HAVE TO SEE
EVEN IF IT MEANS
ALLOWING ME TO
CROSS THE
BRIDGE... IT



WHAT IS
THIS PLACE?
AN UNUSUAL
SPACE THAT
LOOKS LIKE
A ROOM...

BARBER
LOOKS



WHAT KIND OF
BATH WOULD
YOU BUILD IN A
NARROW SPACE
LIKE THIS?

IF IT'S
YOU



THIS IS
THE PLACE
I WANT TO
SHOW YOU.



THAT THING
WAS CRUDE
AND CAPABLE
TO MAKE
THAT...

AA, NO,
THAT IS...

I BELIEVE THAT
YOU MANAGED
TO BUILD A BATH
THAT ENHANCED
FUNCTIONALITY IN
A SMALL COURT-
YARD OF A HOUSE.



I MIGHT BE
ABLE TO THINK OF
SUCH A 'CRUDE
DESIGN', NO
MATTER HOW
MANY YEARS
YOU'VE MANAGED

YOU DON'T
NEED TO
BE SO
HUMBLE



DID YOU
SAY A
BATH? IN A
PLACE LIKE
THIS?

EH?

I DON'T BATTLE IN ORDER TO EXPAND OUR TERRITORY. INSTEAD, I DO NOTHING BUT TRAVEL FROM PROVINCE TO PROVINCE, WHICH MAKES THEM REALLY NERVOUS ABOUT ME.

I THINK YOU ARE WELL AWARE THAT THE SENATE DOESN'T HAVE A GOOD IMPRESSION OF ME.



I CAN'T SEEM TO CONCENTRATE WHEN I'M IN THE LARGE BATHHOUSE THAT IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROOF.



SO I BUILT THIS ISLAND IN ORDER TO THINK OF A WAY TO MAINTAIN THE PEACE I'M ASKING FOR.

HOWEVER, ALL I WISH FOR IS TO NOT TO EXPAND OUR TERRITORY, BUT TO MAINTAIN A PEACEFUL EMPIRE.



ALL APOLLODORUS IS JEREMY DOES.



ALL... BUT

THEREFORE, I WANT YOU TO BUILD A PRIVATE BATH FOR ME BY ANY MEANS!

YOUR ROYAL MAJESTY, YOU JEREMY HAVE AN OUTSTANDING ARCHITECT, APOLLODORUS, RIGHT?



IT'S ALSO HARD FOR ME TO TAKE A BATH WHEN I SELDOM LEAVE THIS PLACE.







IF THE
THINGS
I MAKE
DON'T
SATISFY
WHAT HE
NEEDS...

THERE
WILL
PROBABLY
BE HIS
MERCY...



SOMEHOW,
I FEEL A
LITTLE SORRY
FOR HIM...

TO THINK
THAT HE
REALLY
ENJOYED
HIMSELF
IN SUCH A
SMALL SPACE
SURROUNDED
BY NIGHT...



WAS
SUCH A
LONELY
MAN ...

BUT, I
NEVER
KNEW THAT
EMPEROR
HADRIAN



CAN BE
EASILY
SOLVED
RIGHT?

WITH
THIS, THE
BIGGEST
PROBLEM
FACED WHEN
BUILDING A
BATH ...



WAIT A
MINUTE...
SINCE
THERE'S A
MOUNT HERE,
DON'T
YOU WANT
THEY HAVE
AND HAVE
WANTED
TO GET TO
THE TOP?

AHHA
...P





LET ME FIRST
CONFIRM THE
POSITIONS OF THE
WATER FILLERS
AND DRAINAGE
OUTLETS...



I CAN SEE
THE BOTTOM OF
THE DITCH YET
MY LEGS CAN'T
REACH IT...

HMM?



UWAAH!



WHAT~! YOU
WANT ME TO
SERVE THE
CUSTOMER BY
MYSELF?



ELL... BUT NOW
AM I SUPPOSED TO
SERVE A FOREIGN
CUSTOMER WHEN
I CAN'T SPEAK
ENGLISH AT
ALL..?

WE WILL
BE BACK
SOON!

THE HIGHER-
UP'S NEED ME
URGENTLY, SO
I CAN'T GO
WITH YOU!!



IN ADDITION,
THE CUSTOMER'S
JOB HAS SOME-
THING TO DO WITH
BATHROOM
FACILITIES.

DON'T WORRY!!
THE CUSTOMER
IS FROM ITALY, HE
WOULDN'T KNOW SOME
JAPANESE!

AD 2009
Tokyo, Shinjuku





WASNT
SHE SLEPT I
DO...?



CHIEF,
HURRY
UP!!

JUST BRING
HIM AROUND IF
HE REALLY
COMES!

NO
WAY...



MAYBE HE
WONT BE
COMING
AFTER ALL!

W-WHAT, HE STILL
HASNT ARRIVED
EVEN THOUGH THE
APPOINTMENT WAS
SUPPOSED TO BE
AT 2 PM. HE MUST
HAVE FORGOTTEN
ABOUT IT...



HE MIGHT JUST
TAKE HIS TIME
AND ARRIVE ONLY
TWO OR THREE
HOURS LATER...

THE CUSTOMER
IS AN ITALIAN
WHO DOESNT PUT
EMPHASIS ON
PUNCTUALITY.



WAITING
ONE OR TWO
HOURS FOR
SOMEONE
WHO IS NO
BIG DEAL...



AND IT
WAS
REALLY
HARD TO
ENTER THIS
COMPANY!

WHAH, YOU
CANT RES
NO TONISH!



ALRIGHT,
I HAVE A
FEELING
THAT IT'LL
WORK OUT
SOMEHOW!

IF EVER HE
COMES, WE
STILL HAVE
TODAY'S WORK TO
HANDLE IT, EVEN
THOUGH SHE'S
SERVING SOME
CUSTOMERS
RIGHT NOW.





E...
TALKING?

USA... THE
FLAT-FACED
TRAVEL!



TH...
THIS IS!?



IT SEEMS
LIKE I'M
INSIDE
SOMEONE'S
PRIVATE
BATHROOM...

THE CHIEF HAS
AN EMERGENCY TO
ATTEND TO, SO HE'S
NOT HERE TO ATTEND
TO YOU! PLEASE LET
ME GUIDE YOU
BEFORE HE RETURNS!

AN EMPLOYEE
HERE. I WILL
JUST SHOW
YOU AROUND!



I'M HERE
AGAIN... NO,
IT SHOULD BE,
I'M FINALLY
HERE AGAIN...

WELCOME TO
THIS PLACE!
I WAS WAITING
FOR YOUR
ARRIVAL!

WEL-



WHAT'S
WITH SUCH
A FLUSTERED
REACTION?

OH NO
WAF... WHAT?
FOR REAL?

OH?
MISTER,
WH... WHERE
ARE YOUR
CLOTHES?!

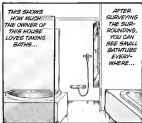


?



THIS SLAVE
MIGHT GET
INTO TROUBLE
IF HER MASTER
FOUND OUT
THAT SHE'S HERE.
I SHOULD JUST
GET OUT
NOW...

HIKK
KK...





THIS COUNTRY
MIGHT HAVE
TERRITORIES
AND PROVINCES
THAT ARE
UNMATCHABLE
BY THE ROMAN
EMPIRE...

ALTHOUGH I'M
RELUCTANT TO
THINK IN THIS
MANNER...

IF SO,
HOW CAN WE
EXPLAIN THE
ADVANCED
CIVILIZATION
OF THIS
WORLD...?

THE ROMAN
EMPIRE
NEVER EXISTED
YEARS AFTER THE
FOUNDING OF THE
ROMAN EMPIRE...
A LARGE COUNTRY
FORMED BY
ASSIMILATING
THE ADVANCED
CIVILIZATIONS
OF ETRURIA,
CARTHAGE AND
GREECE...

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

PERSONALLY,
I'M REALLY
RELUCTANT TO
AGREE TO THE
FACT THAT OUR
CIVILIZATION IS
MORE INFERIOR
TO THEM...

NO MATTER HOW
YOU LOOK AT IT,
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
THAT THEIR
MILITARY POWER IS
MORE SUPERIOR
TO THE ROMANS...

THAT
ACTUALLY
GETS ON MY
NERVES
EVEN MORE...

I UNDER-
STAND
YOUR
FEELINGS...

THE
FLAT-FACED
TRIBE
DOESN'T
SHOW ANY
RESPECTANCE
TO US...
THEY
WILL HAVE
THE
SACRED
LAND...

ISN'T
THAT
...IT

AND USE
THAT AS A
GUIDE TO
MAKE ROME
EVEN MORE
PROSPEROUS...

I MUST
CREATE A
BATHROOM
THAT IS EVEN
BETTER THAN
WHATEVER
EXISTING
BATHROOMS...

AHH...
AHHH...

HOWEVER,
I'M CERTAIN
THAT I CAN'T
BACK UP
BECAUSE OF
FEAR.

The god of
wisdom, Athena

I CANNOT
UNDER-
STAND
GOD'S
INTENTION
FOR
SENDING
ME TO THIS
WORLD...



BY JUST
ADDING A
GLASS
HORIZONTAL
ALIAS

A STRUCTURE
THAT ALLOWS
YOU TO SEE
THE INSIDE OF
THE TANK

THEY
EMBEDDED
A WATER
TANK INTO
THE WALL?

How
I wish you
were here
to do this

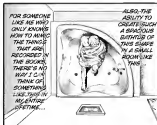
WELL, IF
YOU WISH,
YOU CAN LIE
DOWN INSIDE
THE BUTTLES

YOU CAN ENJOY
THE LUXURY OF
WATCHING THE
TELEVISION WHILE
TAKING A BATH--

NOW
IS IT?

GIVING
ME SUCH AN
ATTITUDE
EVEN THOUGH
I'M JUST
A SLAVE...
ALL THEY
DO WAS
EMBED THE
TANK INTO
THE WALL...

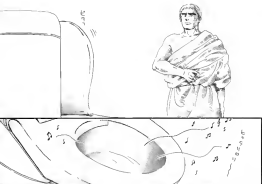


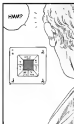




1ST. FLOOR ONLY... IN THIS CASE, IT MEANS "TOILET ROOM"



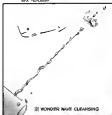




85% "CLASH"



90% "CLASH"



85% "CLASH"

85% "CLASH"







*THIS FEELS
ADDICTIVE...*







THAT WAS REALLY EMBARRASSING...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK IN THAT WAY. I'M GLAD THAT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!

I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ENJOY MYSELF BY LOOKING AT THE JELLYFISHES WHILE TAKING A BATH RIGHT NOW...



I DO NOT DESERVE YOUR KIND PRaises...



I DON'T THINK THAT JELLYFISHES ARE SO EFFECTIVE IN HEALING ONE'S HEART...



THANKS TO YOU I WILL BE ABLE TO GO TO JERUSALEM WITH A BALANCED HEART AND BODY.

LET ME SHOW MY GRATITUDE TO YOU, KNOWING LUCKY!





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WILL YOU
BE WILLING TO
GO WITH
ME?



ALL
ALL
NOT...

FOR
THE PEACE
OF ROME,
I BEG OF
YOU!!

IF YOU'D JUST SAY, "I WILL," I WOULDN'T NEED TO SAY "FOR THE PEACE OF ROME," WOULD I?



WHAT KNOWS
OF ABOUT THAT
OF COURSE
THE FUTURE
FUTURE...

COME TO SPEAK
OF IT. IT DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE THAT BATH
ENGINEER IS COMING
BACK TO ROME ANY
TIME SOON...

THAT IS BAD...
WHAT SHOULD
I DO...



...FUTURE...

ARE YOU
WILLING TO GO
TO JERUSALEM
WITH ME?

WITH YOU
BEHIND
ME, I WILL
FEEL MORE
REASSURED!

ROME AND BATHHOUSES, MY LOVE

IF I HAD TO COME UP WITH A SIMPLE DESCRIPTION OF HADRIAN I WOULD SAY THAT HE WAS THE FIRST ROMAN EMPEROR TO GROW A BEARD AND THE FIRST TO HAVE A TALL FIGURE WITH SUCH REDINED FACIAL FEATURES. THE SUCCESSIVE EMPERORS ALSO MIMICKED HIM BY GROWING BEARDS AS WELL. HOWEVER, IT WAS SAID THAT HADRIAN'S REASON FOR GROWING A BEARD WAS TO CONCEAL THE SCAR ON HIS FACE. THERE IS ACTUALLY A GREAT AMOUNT OF BOOKS ON HADRIAN. JUST SPEND SOME TIME READING THOSE BOOKS AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HIS PERSONALITY IN GREATER DETAIL. ALTHOUGH NORMALLY PEOPLE WOULD JUST SAY THAT HE WAS AN EMPEROR "WHO LOVED CULTURE AND ARTS MUCH MORE THAN WARS."

IT'S TRUE THAT EMPEROR HADRIAN WAS AN EMPEROR WHO TRIED TO PREVENT WARS BY ANY MEANS. DURING TRAJAN'S THE PREVIOUS EMPEROR'S REIGN THE ROMAN EMPIRE REACHED ITS MAXIMUM SIZE. AS THE PRESENT EMPEROR, HADRIAN MADE PERSONAL VISITS TO THESE TERRITORIES AND DID EVERYTHING HE COULD TO MAINTAIN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY. HENCE WE COULD SAY THAT HE DESERVED TO BE LISTED AS ONE OF THE FIVE GOOD EMPERORS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

DESPITE EVERYTHING I'VE SAID, AFTER READING A NUMBER OF BOOKS ON HIM I BEGAN TO THINK THAT HADRIAN IS THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT MAKES PEOPLE GO "AH, IT'S BETTER TO BE FRIENDS AND ONLY FRIENDS WITH A PERSON LIKE HIM AS FOR BECOMING HIS FAMILY, IT MIGHT BE TOO TOUGH..." WELL, I THINK HE'S SIMILAR TO LEONARDO DA VINCI, A GENIUS WHO ALSO LIKED TO DO THINGS AT HIS OWN PACE. THOSE PEOPLE LOVE NATURE SINCE THEY ARE YOUNG AND ENJOY INVENTING THINGS. THEY ALSO HAVE AN INQUIRING MIND, HIGH EGO AND INSTEAD OF ENTRUSTING TASKS TO OTHERS, THEY PREFER COMPLETING EVERYTHING BY THEMSELVES.

FORTUNATELY, HADRIAN EXISTED IN AN ERA WHERE EVERYONE STRIVED TO ATTAIN A BALANCE FOR THEIR BODIES AND MINDS, WHICH ALSO MEANT THAT HADRIAN HAD TO MODERATE THE TENDENCY TO DO THINGS AS HE PLEASED.

A LOCATION IN HADRIAN'S VILLA, KNOWN AS THE MARITIME THEATRE, THE EXACT USAGE OF THIS PLACE REMAINS UNKNOWN. (TICHEL-ITALY)



ONE OF THE FIVE GOOD EMPERORS, EMPEROR HADRIAN



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vol.

HOWEVER, THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN HIS DESIGN OF THE VILLA THAT WAS LOCATED IN A SUBURB OF ROME SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT HADRIAN WAS AN UNUSUALLY ENERGETIC INDIVIDUAL WHOSE TASTE WAS NOTHING LIKE THE NORMS AT ALL.

HADRIAN ALSO TRIED TO RECREATE SOME OF THE PROVINCES HE VISITED AND BUILT IN LOVE WITH, IN HIS OWN VILLA. USING HIS OWN BODY AFTER SEEING THE NOVELTY OF HIS DESIGNS, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT THEY FELT LIKE A KIND OF NAIVE DREAMY IMPULSES OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENT WHO WANTED TO BUILD A SECRET BASE NEAR THE SCHOOL - THAT IS, TO BUILD A PLACE THAT BELONGED TO HIM AND ONLY HIM.

WELL, EVEN THOUGH HADRIAN DID A LOT OF RIDICULOUS THINGS IN THIS PRESENT ERA, THERE ARE STILL MANY WHO HOLD A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION OF HIM REGARDING HIM AS THE MOST DELICATE OF THE FIVE GOOD EMPERORS AND AN INTELLECTUAL WHO POSSESSED THE MOST REFINED AESTHETIC QUALITY. ADDITIONALLY, OUT OF ALL THE EMPERORS, HADRIAN DEFINITELY TOPPED THE LIST FOR LOVING TO TAKE BATHS. I BELIEVE THAT IF HE CAME TO JAPAN, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPERIENCE MANY KINDS OF ENJOYMENT.



ON A BLAZING HOT SUMMER DAY, FOR THE SAKE OF WRITING THIS STORY, I MADE A TRIP TO A PARTICULAR COMPANY IN SHINJUKU THAT SPECIALIZES IN BATHROOM FACILITIES WITH MY CHIEF EDITOR, OKUMURA, FROM THE MONTHLY MANGA MAGAZINE COMIC BEAN.

THE FIRST THING HE SAID WHEN HE SAW THOSE EMPTY BATHTUBS WAS "FOR SUCH THINGS, YOU HAVE TO LIE DOWN INSIDE THEM BEFORE YOU CAN COME TO ANY CONCLUSION." RIGHT AFTER HE FINISHED HIS SENTENCE, HE ENTERED AN EMPTY BATHTUB AND LIED DOWN. EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NO WATER IN IT, HE ACTUALLY TRIED ADJUSTING HIMSELF INTO MANY DIFFERENT RELAXING POSITIONS AND EVEN CHICKED OUT ALL THE NEW FUNCTIONS SERVICED. AS I WAS TAKING SOME PICTURES, A THOUGHT FLASHED IN MY MIND. "IF HADRIAN WAS HERE, HE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE DONE THE SAME THING AS OKUMURA-SAN... WHILE IGNORING THE GAZES OF OTHERS COMPLETELY." THE CHIEF EDITOR AND HADRIAN MIGHT ACTUALLY BECOME GOOD FRIENDS, WHO KNOWS?

CHIEF EDITOR OKUMURA LIE DOWNING HIMSELF IN THE SHOWROOM



CHIEF EDITOR OKUMURA TRYING OUT THE DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS OF THE BATHTUB IN THE SHOWROOM



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